Ser. No.: 09/743,726 Amdt. dated May 21, 2003

Reply to Office action of June 21, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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- 1. (original): An agent delivery system comprising:
 - a pellet containing a therapeutic agent;
- a flexible, implantable body having a hollow interior configured to receive and retain the pellet within the interior after the body has been implanted within tissue.
- 2. (original): An agent delivery system as defined in claim 1 wherein the implantable body comprises a helical spring having individual coils which define an inside diameter suitable for retaining the pellet in position within the device and the coils being spaced a distance which permits bodily fluids to flow into the interior of the device yet are small enough to prevent passage of the pellet from the interior of the device.
- 3. (previously presented): An agent delivery system as defined in claim 2 wherein the body has proximal and distal portions and coils along the proximal portion define a second inside diameter that does not accept the pellet.
- 4. (previously presented): An agent delivery system as defined in claim 2 wherein the coils at the distal portion of the body further define a diameter that does not accept the pellet.
 - 5. (currently amended): An agent delivery system comprising: a pellet containing a therapeutic agent;
- a flexible and implantable body defining an interior sized to accept the pellet and having proximal and distal ends, wherein [[. The]] the proximal end being is sized to accept the pellet and the body further having at least one opening sized to permit bodily

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fluid to enter the interior of the device but sized to prevent the pellet from exiting the interior of the device;

an implant delivery device;

a pellet delivery tube engagable with the proximal end of the body.

- 6. (currently amended): An agent delivery system as defined in Claim 5

 wherein the further comprising an alignment device is tool engagable with the interior of the implant body.
- 7. (currently amended): An agent delivery system as defined in Claim 5 wherein the further comprising an alignment device is tool engagable with an outside surface of the implant device and pellet delivery tube.
 - 8. (original): An agent delivery system as defined in Claim 5 wherein the pellet delivery tube further comprises a pellet advancement mechanism and a pellet restraint mechanism.
 - 9. (original): An agent delivery system comprising:
 - a pellet containing a therapeutic agent;
 - a flexible, implantable implant device;
 - a multi-lumen delivery tube having an implant delivery lumen and a pellet delivery lumen and having a distal end with a catheter positioning device engagable with tissue;
 - an implant delivery device comprising:
 - an obturator capable of piercing tissue in a shaft joined to the obturator for controlling axial movement of the delivery device through the multi-lumen catheter;
 - a pellet delivery tube sized to slidably receive a pellet and being slidable within the pellet delivery lumen of the multi-lumen catheter,

the implant device delivery device and pellet delivery tube being independently controllable through the multi-lumen delivery catheter.

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10. (previously submitted): An agent delivery system comprising:

a pellet containing a therapeutic agent;

a flexible, implantable body having an interior configured to receive the pellet and retain it after the implant has been placed in tissue;

an obturator configured to pierce tissue;

an insertion device configured to retain the pellet within the interior of the implant device for simultaneous delivery into an intended tissue location.

11. (original): A method for delivering an agent comprising:

providing a pellet containing a therapeutic agent;

providing a flexible and plantable body having an interior configured to receive and retain the pellet;

providing an obturator capable of piercing tissue;

providing a pellet delivery tube advancing the obturator into the tissue to create a channel;

advancing the implantable body into the channel;

advancing the pellet delivery tube to the proximal end of the body and inserting the pellet into the interior of the body;

closing the proximal end of the body to retain the pellet within the interior.